SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it is true that the Indo-Burma border is extremely vulnerable to smuggling, particularly smuggling of drugs and other psychotropic substances. As far as the Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned, we have given strict instructions to the BSF, which is there on the border, as well as the Assam Rifles, which is in some parts of the border areas to be very vigilant against smuggling. As I said, the drive against smuggling which was started with renewed vigour about six months ago under the direction of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, has yielded very good results. I do not have the figures with me unfortunately, but, I am sure, if you will address a question to the Ministry of Finance, they will place before you the tremendous results which have been achieved as a result of the drive which was launched six months ago.

*188. (*The questioner (Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee) was absent. For answer* vide *Col.* 35 infra)

*189. (*The questioners (Shri Lal K. Advani and Shri Ashwani Kumar) were absent. For answer* vide *Col.* 36 infra)

Entry of Burmese students into Mizoram

*190. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a certain number of Burmese students have crossed into the Indian territory and entered into Mizoram;

(b) if so, what is their number as at present; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Following recent disturbances in Burma, Burmese nationals including students have been crossing over to India since September 24, 1988. As on 19th November, 1988, a total of 227 refugees including students have arrived in India. Out of these, 143 refugees, almost all students, have taken shelter in Mizoram.

(c) In keeping with the Indian traditions, it was decided that the Burmese nationals seeking refugee may be allowed to stay on Indian soil temporarily.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Sir, while appreciating the Indian tradition of allowing the refugees to stay on the Indian soil temporarily, I want to say that foreign students or foreign nationals have no right to call any meetings in our country and it is learnt from the concerned sources that in Mizoram these students are holding meetings. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of this fact and whether any arrests have been done for holding these meetings.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, strict vigilance is kept on the camps where they are kept and we do take steps to see that they do not mix up with the masses and general population. There was one incident when four persons had intruded into the camps, not the refugees, they wanted to create a certain situation and appropriate steps have been taken against them by the State Government.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Sir, my second supplementary is that the Peoples Conference of Mizoram, which is the largest regional party, this party is helping the Burmese students. Now I want to know from the hon. Minister in what respects...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.